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RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 5365
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 9217
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5261
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
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STATE FOR EAP/PD FOR SWALKER, EAP/P, EAP/K
STATE PASS USDA ELECTRONICALLY FOR FAX/ITP SCHEIKH
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CINCPAC FOR J-74

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION IN SEOUL

Subject: Media Reaction; Seoul

Secretary Clinton's Trip to Asia

"Alliance Reaffirmed"

Right-of-center JoongAng Ilbo editorialized (02/21): "The biggest accomplishment of Clinton's visit to the ROK is that she emphasized that the ROK and the U.S. could work together on dealing with North Korea, despite the recent change of U.S. administration. Another accomplishment is that the ROK and the U.S. jointly sent a strong warning to Pyongyang about future provocations that threaten regional security. It is also notable that Clinton and Foreign Minister Yu addressed concerns that the U.S. may have actually acknowledged that North Korea possesses nuclear weapons. They said it is not acceptable under any circumstances for the North to possess a nuclear arsenal, and confirmed that both countries (ROK and the U.S.) want denuclearization in a complete and verifiable manner through the Six-Party Talks."

"Pyongyang Should Not Dare Ignore Clinton's Message"

Conservative Dong-a Ilbo editorialized (02/21): "At the same time, the ROK and the U.S. are extending an opportunity to North Korea. Secretary Clinton has already expressed willingness to normalize U.S.-North Korea ties on the premise that North Korea is prepared to abandon its nuclear programs. Secretary Clinton's announcement of Stephen Bosworth as U.S. Envoy to North Korea can be seen as a gesture of dialogue. The ROK Unification Ministry also said yesterday, '(We are) willing to meet and talk with North Korea's responsible officials anytime, anywhere, on any agenda and in any form.' The choice to preserve the possibility of normalizing U.S.-North Korea ties and the possibility of dialogue is up to North Korea. North Korea must face up to the reality and stop playing the provocation card."

"Clinton: 'Seoul and Washington on the Same Page on North Korean Issues'"

Conservative Chosun Ilbo editorialized (02/21): "Secretary Clinton demonstrated 'smart power' diplomacy espoused by the Obama Administration during her visit to the ROK. Smart power diplomacy is a combination of hard power, such as military force, and the soft power of winning the hearts of the other. This U.S. effort - to

show that the U.S. is not a 'heavy-handed country'- should not be a one-time event but (should) continue broadly."

"North Korea Should Heed Warnings from the ROK and the U.S."

Moderate Hankook Ilbo editorialized (02/21): "Secretary Clinton's public comments on North Korea's succession may be interpreted as the U.S.' call for the country to stop stoking crisis internationally with its internal troubles and to come to the negotiating table in a responsible manner. Secretary Clinton, at a press conference yesterday said, 'Our goal is to address the North's incumbent government and bring the current leadership back to the negotiating table at the Six-Party Talks.' The North should rationally accept the world's perception of itself and make a wise decision. It should stop its preparations for a missile launch and come to the dialogue table."

"A Positive Start for Clinton's Brand of Diplomacy"

Left-leaning Hankyoreh Shinmun editorialized (02/23): "Secretary Clinton defined her first overseas trip to Asia as a 'listening tour,' indicating that the Obama Administration intends to create a new, multi-party cooperative diplomatic order, in which it listens to the views of other countries instead of forcing its own. With power emanating from her (political) career, Secretary Clinton during this tour was not bound by protocol, but expanded her contact with the general public of the host nations. It was an effort to win back the support of foreign nations, which had turned their back on the Bush Administration's unilateralism. As a result, Secretary Clinton's diplomacy seems to have gotten off to a positive start for now."

"Effects of Sino-U.S. Relations"

Right-of-center JoongAng Ilbo editorialized (02/23): "Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's visit to China has paved the way for the two nations to share their views on forging a new partnership. Secretary Clinton clarified her position during the presidential election, stressing the importance of her country's relations with China. She emphasized China's role as a responsible stakeholder in Asia. Therefore, the establishment of cooperative Sino-U.S. relations may cause a fundamental change in how existing international issues, such as the Six-Party Talks, are addressed. Against this backdrop, the ROKG should make no mistakes in gaining a comprehensive understanding of the changing aspects of Sino-U.S. relations, taking our complicated position into consideration."

Stephens